ARE YOU OKAY?
OF COURSE. WE WERE NEVER IN ANY REAL DANGER. ARSENAL WAS PROGRAMMED TO USE NONLETHAL FORCE.
I'M SORRY, WHAT?
ACCORDING TO THE AVENGERS FILES, ARSENAL'S CHEST CANNON HAS KNOCKED OUT WONDER MAN, BUT NOT METTLE. NONE OF US WAS TRULY INJURED. THIS WAS A TEST, WASN'T IT?
WELL, UM...IF BY "TEST" YOU MEAN...
IT WAS. BUT NOT ONE WE ALL APPROVED. IN FACT, MOST OF US STRONGLY DISAPPROVE.
OH, PLEASE. HOW ARE THEY TO LEARN IF THEY ONLY FACE SITUATIONS WHERE THEY KNOW THEY CAN'T GET HURT?
WHEN I WAS A BOY, MAGNETO WOULD HIRE ASSASSINS TO ATTACK WANDA AND ME IN OUR SLEEP.
MAGNETO IS A TERRORIST. WE'RE AVENGERS...THEIR TEACHERS. HOW COULD YOU GUARANTEE THEY WOULDN'T BE HURT? AND SINCE WHEN ARE YOU AN A.I. WIZARD?
I'M NOT. I HAD JOCASTA REBUILD AND REPROGRAM ARSENAL.
YES...THOUGH I BELIEVED THE MATTER WAS APPROVED BY ALL INSTRUCTORS. OR I WOULD NOT HAVE COMPLIED. MY APOLOGIES.
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, JOCASTA. ALTHOUGH...IF WE TALKED MORE, THIS SORT OF THING MIGHT BE AVOIDED...
I AM ALWAYS AVAILABLE FOR PROFESSIONAL DISCUSSIONS, DR. PYM.
HOWEVER, UNTIL YOU ACCEPT THAT OUR ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP IS OVER, I THINK IT'S BEST WE MAINTAIN A RESPECTFUL DISTANCE.
OH, SNAP!
I'M AN EXPERT AT EVERYTHING, EXCEPT WHAT I NEED TO GET THROUGH EVERY DAY FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.

--DARK PERIOD WHEN QUICKSILVER STRUGGLED WITH MENTAL ILLNESS, HIS INCREASING PARANOIA AND MEGALOMANIA EVENTUALLY BRINGING HIM TO BLOWS WITH HIS FORMER TEAMMATES.
--AS PART OF HIS REHABILITATION, QUICKSILVER JOINED X-FACTOR, AT THE TIME A GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED TEAM OF MUTANTS. PSYCHOTHERAPY WAS A REQUIRED CONDITION OF MEMBERSHIP.
IT WAS THEN THAT DR. SAMSON ATTAINED SPECIAL INSIGHT INTO WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE THE FASTEST MAN ON EARTH. SAMSON EXPLAINS:
"I IMAGINE THERE'S A LONG LINE AT THE POST OFFICE, SO YOU GO TO USE THEIR AUTOMATED MACHINE. BUT THE PERSON IN FRONT OF YOU CAN'T FIGURE OUT HOW IT WORKS.
"THEY'RE PRESSING THE WRONG BUTTONS...READING THE INSTRUCTIONS OUT LOUD TO THEMSELVES...HITTING 'CANCEL' AND STARTING ALL OVER AGAIN, WHILE YOU KNOW YOU COULD COMPLETE BOTH THEIR TRANSACTION AND YOURS IN UNDER THIRTY SECONDS.
"THAT'S WHAT EVERY MOMENT OF EVERY DAY IS LIKE FOR QUICKSILVER. IT'S TO HIS CREDIT THAT HE MAKES ANY EFFORT TO PUT UP WITH US AT ALL."
MORE RECENTLY, IT WAS REVEALED THAT THE QUICKSILVER WHO INSTIGATED WAR BETWEEN THE INHUMANS AND EARTH WAS ACTUALLY A SHAPE-CHANGING ALIEN SKRULL, ONE OF MANY WHO REPLACED VICTIMS WORLDWIDE TO PAVE THE WAY FOR THEIR INVASION.
PARENTAL ABUSE. MENTAL BREAKDOWNS. DIVORCE. ALIEN ABDUCTION. ANY ONE OF THESE TRAUMAS WOULD BREAK MOST PEOPLE.
BUT QUICKSILVER HAS PICKED HIMSELF UP, DUSTED HIMSELF OFF AND EMBARKED ON A CAMPAIGN OF REDEMPTION WITH THE MIGHTY AVENGERS.

AVENGERS ACADEMY

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Hey, folks – thanks for picking up AVENGERS ACADEMY #2, and welcome to what, as of next issue, will be our official letters page!

That's right, we're kickin' it old school (do people still say "kickin' it?"). Sure, in this post-internet era there are message boards, Twitter and Facebook out there for people to share their speculation, comments and (gasp) criticisms of this book. But there's something about having an actual letters page in the comic itself, where your missives are printed and answered, that we like. So send your liltin' letters (yeah, I'm probably gonna slip into Stan Lee mode at times… can't help it, it's in my blood) to mheroes@marvel.com, and be sure to write "OKAY TO PRINT" somewhere in there.

It's almost obligatory to use the first letter column to ask readers for their ideas on naming said column. And now I know why…coming up with good names is hard! The best I've got is "Class Notes." If you think you can do better – and I know you can – show us! The winning selection will receive a signed copy of AVENGERS ACADEMY #1. Signed by who? Well, me – my name is Christos Gage, and I'll be your writer – and whoever else I can get to sign it at the Avengers Retreat.

As I write this, AVENGERS ACADEMY #1 has just hit the streets, and we couldn't be happier with the reaction. Thanks to all of you who picked it up…we know books with new characters are a tough sell in today's market, and even with the presence of longtime Avengers like Hank Pym, Tigra and Quicksilver, we wondered if readers would give our students a chance. We're glad you did, and hope what you read will keep you coming back for more. Please keep sharing your thoughts – positive or negative – so we know what's working for you and what isn't. Our one request – if you don't like something, please let us know why.

I'd just like to take a moment to recognize our entire creative team – artist Mike McKone, colorist Jeromy Cox, letterer Joe Caramagna, and editors Rachel Pinnelas and Bill Rosemann – plus headmaster Tom Brevoort. They all work hard to make this book great. If you like it, it's because of them (and if you don't, it's probably my fault). So thanks, guys.

That's about it, except to answer a few questions that have come up already. No, none of our students are mutants. You'll find out some of their origins soon, get hints about others, and still others will remain mysteries to be explored. Yes, we'll eventually find out how Reptil got from the Savage Land into Norman Osborn's clutches. And the kids will indeed face bona fide super villains, as soon as next issue, the start of our crossover with Jeff Parker and Kev Walker's awesome THUNDERBOLTS! Thanks for your patience…I wanted to ease them into fighting bad guys. As much as I loved NEW WARRIORS, the idea that they started their career beating Terrax – a Herald of freakin' Galactus – never rang true for me. There'll be a learning curve for the Academy kids.

Thanks again for your support…and I hope to see you next month for the debut of your letters, and the first part of SCARED STRAIGHT!

--Christos Gage

NEXT!

Send e-mail to
MHEROES@MARVEL.COM
(please mark as OKAY TO PRINT)